

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, and 16 are currently pending in this application. By this response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2011, claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended, and claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, and 18 are canceled without prejudice. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, including the claims, as originally filed. No new matter is added. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, and 16. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully submitted.

**Telephone Interview of May 24, 2011**

Applicants thank the Examiners for conducting an interview with the undersigned. In the interview, the above amendments to claims 1, 7, and 13 were discussed. The Examiners indicated that the amended claims, which each recite, *inter alia*, “a switch region located between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the partition region,” overcome the rejection in view of Chiba and Kozaki, and that a new search would be required.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103(a)**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 6, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,401,166 (Chiba). On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiba in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,575 (Kozaki). On page 8 of the Office Action, claims 5, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Chiba in view of Kozaki and U.S. Patent No. 6,873,789 (Nakamura). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 each recite, *inter alia*, “a switch region located between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the partition region.” In contrast, the alternative area shown in Kozaki, FIG. 2, is located at the end of the flash memory array, and accordingly would not be “located between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the partition region,” were such regions recorded in the regular area of the flash memory array – which corresponds to (with the exception of defective sectors) the memory available via the host address space. This point was agreed upon in the above-mentioned interview.

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are not obvious in view of Chiba and Kozaki. Nakamura, which is cited with respect to a UDF file system, does not bridge this gap. Thus, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are not obvious in view of the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

### **Conclusion**

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner’s amendment, Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

**Application No.: 10/585,643**

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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